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Bethel A.M.E. Church

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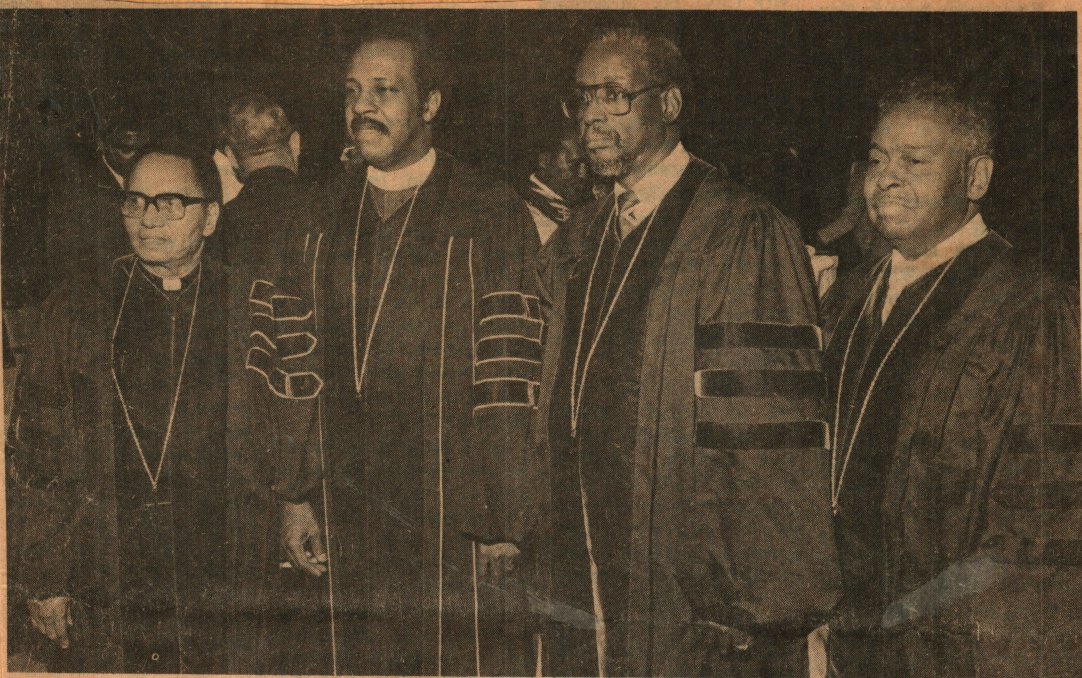
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**NEW BISHOPS OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH...**Four new Bishops were elected in the African Methodist Episcopal church during elections held the past week-end. The new Bishops are, from left to right: Dr. Harold Ben Senatle, South Africa, 102nd Bishop; Robert L. Pruitt, Washington D.C., 103rd bishop; Henry A. Belin, Nashville, Tenn., 104th bishop and Vernon R. Byrd, Newark, N.J., 105th bishop. The new bishops were consecrated during a service on Sunday afternoon at the Municipal auditorium arena, where sessions of the church's 42nd Quadrennial General Conference were held July 8 to 15. Photo by Rex Purefoy.

# Elect New Prelates For The AME Church

By Lucile Bluford

In an election that consumed the better part of two days and two nights, the A.M.E. General Conference, which held its 42nd Quadrennial session here July 8 to 15, elected four new bishops last week-end, bringing the number of active prelates to 20 to serve the church's 19 Episcopal districts. The election began about 2 p.m. Friday and ended around 10 p.m. Saturday.

The new bishops, one

from South Africa, in the order of their election are:

1. Rev. Harold Ben Senatle, who was a minister in the East Transvaal conference of the A.M.E. church in South Africa.

2. Rev. Robert L. Pruitt, who was pastor of the Metropolitan A.M.E. church in Washington, D.C., known as the "National Cathedral of African Methodism."

3. Dr. Henry Allen Belin Jr., who was Secretary-

Treasurer of the Sunday School Union, Nashville, Tenn.

4. The Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, who was pastor of the St. James A.M.E. church, Newark, N.J., which has a membership of more than 3,000.

The new bishops were consecrated at a formal religious ceremony Sunday morning, July 15, in the arena of the Municipal auditorium with all of the bishops of the church, active and retired, par-

ticipating. Bishop W.T. Handy, presiding bishop of the Missouri conference of the United Methodist church, also took part in the service.

Using 20 voting machines, the 1472 voting delegates required five ballots to complete the election of the four bishops. Under A.M.E. law, each bishop elected must receive a majority of the votes cast. Forty-four candidates were in the race,

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